ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH
Rural Sanitary District.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1912.

G. S. HART, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

MARCH, 1913.

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To

THE ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
MEASHAM,

March, 1913.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1912.

Your district covers an area of 31,995 acres, and is subdivided into nineteen parishes.

Population.

Population at the census of 1901 was 14,449
" " " 1911 was 16,302
" Estimated to middle of 1912...16,430.

Births.

Four hundred and thirty eight births were registered in the year 1912, viz. 207 boys and 231 girls.

This gives a birth rate of 26 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Birth rate for	1906	was	32·5
" "	1907	"	28·3
" "	1908	"	32·0
" "	1909	"	30·4
" "	1910	"	30·0
" "	1911	"	27·0

Deaths.

One hundred and seventy one deaths were registered in your district, and twelve were registered outside of persons belonging to your district; total, 183.

This gives a death rate of 11 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Death rate for	1906	was	12·29
"	1907	"	11·9
"	1908	"	14·0
"	1909	"	13·6
"	1910	"	11·12
"	1911	"	13·0

Infantile Mortality.

Forty six deaths occurred under one year.

This gives an Infantile Mortality of 105 per 1,000 net births registered.

Infantile Mortality for	1906	was	108·7
,, ,,	1907	,,	82·3
,, ,,	1908	,,	109·0
,, ,,	1909	,,	111·0
,, ,,	1910	,,	105·0
,, ,,	1911	,,	119·0

Causes of Infantile Mortality.

Measles caused	1 death
Whooping Cough	3 ,,
Abdominal Tuberculosis	2 ,,
Convulsions	2 ,,
Bronchitis	7 ,,
Pneumonia	2 ,,
Enteritis	2 ,,
Gastritis	1 ,,
Suffocation—overlying	2 ,,
Injury at Birth...	1 ,,
Congenital Malformation ...	1 ,,
Premature Birth	9 ,,
Atrophy Debility, Marasmus ...	8 ,,
Other causes	5 ,,
	46

Zymotic Death Rate.

Enteric Fever caused	1 death.
Measles	2 ,,
Scarlet Fever	1 ,,
Whooping Cough	5 ,,
Diphtheria and Croup... ...	2 ,,
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	5 ,,
	16

This gives a Zymotic Death Rate of ·97 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

With regard to the fatal case of Enteric Fever recorded above, the patient, a resident in Burton-on-Trent, arrived at Coleorton ill, so that your district was undoubtedly not responsible for the origin of the disease.

The case does not properly belong to your district and the record was no doubt duly transferred to the proper quarter.

Phthisical Death Rate.

Five deaths were caused by Phthisis. This gives a Phthisical death rate of ·24 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Five deaths were caused by Tubercular diseases other than Phthisis. These, if added to the above would give a Tubercular Death Rate of ·84 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Phthisical Death Rate for		1906	was	·45
,,	,,	1907	,,	·64
,,	,,	1908	,,	·80
,,	,,	1909	,,	·44
,,	,,	1910	,,	·44
,,	,,	1911	,,	·49

Summary of Deaths according to Age.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	46
1 and under 2 years	...	...	...	6
2 ,, 5 ,,	...	...	...	12
5 ,, 15 ,,	...	...	...	3
15 ,, 25 ,,	...	...	...	4
25 ,, 45 ,,	...	...	...	17
45 ,, 65 ,,	...	...	...	25
Over 65	...	...	...	70
				183

Causes of Death.

Enteric Fever caused one death, but this death as noted before did not properly belong to your district. Measles caused 2 deaths; Scarlet Fever 1; Whooping Cough 5; Diphtheria and Croup 2; Phthisis 4; other Tubercular Diseases 5; Cancer 12; Meningitis 5; Heart Disease 16; Bronchitis 14; Pneumonia 9; other Respiratory Diseases 3; Diarrhœa and Enteritis 5; Alcoholism 1; Nephritis and Bright's Disease 6; Puerperal Fever 1; Accidents of Pregnancy 1; Congenital Debility 15; Violent Deaths 12; Suicides 2; other defined diseases 36; and ill defined or unknown diseases 25.

Infectious Diseases.

One hundred and four cases of infectious disease were notified during the year, viz :—

Diphtheria	...	...	19
Erysipelas	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	57
Enteric Fever	...	...	5
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		...	17
			104

No cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever of the Epidemic form came under my notice during the year, nor did Acute Poliomyelitis, as far as I know, occur either.

Diphtheria.

Nineteen cases were notified, and two cases proved fatal. One of the fatal cases occurred in a child who had shortly before fallen into a cess pit. Many of the others occurred in houses satisfactory from a sanitary point of view. Antitoxin, kept in stock by me, is supplied to Practitioners on request.

Scarlet Fever.

Fifty seven cases were notified during the year, of these, 41 cases occurred at Donisthorpe, where this disease was more or less continuously present from June onwards. Towards the end of the year it assumed epidemic form. Unfortunately your Hospital at Swannington was not available when most needed, as extensive alterations and repairs which had become necessary, were being carried out at this time. This as well as the fact that many of the cases were of an extremely mild type, some of them difficult to recognise, accounted for the spread of the disease at Donisthorpe. Eight cases were removed to Swannington Hospital, where one of them died.

Enteric Fever.

Five cases were notified during the year, two at least of these cases were contracted outside your district, and one of them which came from Burton-on Trent proved fatal.

I have nothing to say regarding the others, which were of a mild type, and the properties involved were in most cases fairly satisfactory.

Measles, Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough were prevalent in several parishes during the year, and several schools were closed in consequence.

During the present year, New Regulations for dealing with Consumption and other Tubercular diseases have come in force.

Insured persons under the Insurance Act will be provided for by the provisions of this Act, and uninsured persons are, I believe, to be dealt with by the County Council.

No institution for the reception of consumptive patients exists in your district.

Drainage and Sewerage.

With reference to the new scheme of drainage for Swannington parish, which was completed over a year ago, all the houses and premises possible have been duly connected with proper traps and ventilation. The system works well, is very efficient, and the effluent is clear and bright. Altogether it proves a great improvement for the parish.

With respect to Ravenstone, a scheme for the drainage of the parish is shortly to be commenced. At the Local Government Enquiry held for the purposes of a loan, no opposition was offered.

The schemes for dealing with the drainage of Measham and part of Donisthorpe, mentioned in my last year's report, are still under consideration.

Water Supply.

My remarks concerning the water supply of your district in last year's report are still applicable. I might say, however, that a public supply from the Coalville mains is now available for those requiring it at New Swannington.

Hospital Accommodation.

This at present remains the same as before, but a Joint Committee of the districts involved has been formed for carrying out the construction of the New Joint Isolation Hospital at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

The Health Visitors of the Leicestershire County Council still work in your district, and their duties will no doubt soon be increased in the matter of dealing with Tubercular Diseases in your area.

Housing of the Working Classes.

The housing of the working classes in the main will bear a repetition of my remarks of last year. Slow, but steady improvements are being regularly made in the case of old properties. Forty-three existing houses have been re-drained.

Ten new dwelling houses were erected during the year, as well as numerous additions to old houses in the way of additional accommodation, &c.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910.

For details see your Inspector's Report.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

A corrected list of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-sellers in your district shows that there are now one hundred and seventy-six premises on your Register.

Regular inspections of Dairy cattle have been made by your Veterinary Surgeon, and for the details of his work see his report which is herewith appended.

Factory and Workshops Act.

Factories.

Lount Earthenware works have been considerably extended during the year.

Measham Shoe Factory is still carried on in temporary premises.

A well-appointed Cheese Factory exists at Swepstone.

The other factories in your district comprise a few brick yards, pipe works, and stone mill at Bardon, and an organ factory at Measham.

Workshops, including bakehouses in your district number about 91. The bakehouses, ten in number, are well kept and no underground bakehouse exists.

Homework.

Outwork of the nature of hosiery is to some extent carried on in your district. There were 55 outworkers on the list, and at two houses cases of infectious disease occurred. These were promptly dealt with and work stopped till they were free from infection.

In conclusion I would point out your smaller death-rate as well as a diminished infantile mortality.

I would like to see some definite progress made during the present year with the provision of the Joint Isolation Hospital at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. I would also ask for your careful consideration of the sewerage of Measham.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. S. HART, M.D.

(COPY).

Ashby-de-la-Zouch,

June 29th, 1912.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashby Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in presenting my half-yearly report on the Dairy Cows in your district.

During the past six months I found two cases of Tuberculosis of the Udder. These animals were isolated, and the milk condemned as unfit for human consumption. In three cases the Udders were of a suspicious character, the milk from these Cows was stopped for human use, and the owners decided to fatten them as soon as possible. One animal I condemned for General Tuberculosis and the owner sent her to be slaughtered at once.

In two instances of poor aged Cows I advised the owners tc dispose of them as early as possible, and this they promised to do.

I am very pleased to be able to state the improvement in the Dairy Cows is well maintained and their general condition quite satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

(*Signed*)

SIDNEY STURGESS, M.R.C.V.S.,

Veterinary Inspector.

(COPY).

Ashby-de-la-Zouch,

December 31st, 1912.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashby Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have very great pleasure in submitting my half-yearly report on the Dairy Cows in your district. During that time I have examined 2,281 Animals. Out of that number I found four affected with Tuberculosis Udders. They were at once isolated and the milk stopped for human consumption.

In two animals, whose udders were of a suspicious character, I stopped the milk from being used, and advised that they be disposed of as early as possible.

One Cow I condemned for General Tuberculosis and she was sent to the slaughter at once.

In the case of 3 aged Cows I advised the owners not to breed from them again, but to part with them. This they agreed to do.

I am very pleased to be able to say that the improvement in the Cows is now very apparent, and at the present time they are in a very satisfactory condition.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

(*Signed*)

SIDNEY STURGESS, M.R.C.V.S.,

Veterinary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,

FOR THE YEAR, 1912.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to your consideration my report upon and works carried out during the year just ended of 1912.

Building Works and Plans.

During the year, thirty-three Plans were deposited for the Council's approval; seven of which were disapproved, but were afterwards re-deposited and approved.

The Plans represented thirteen Dwelling-Houses, two Shops, one School Technical Workshop, one Factory Extension at the Lount Works, three Cow Sheds, two Slaughter-Houses, two Sculleries, and seventeen miscellaneous erections, additions, &c.

During the year, the following Buildings have been completed, viz., ten Dwelling-Houses (one Warehouse, Workshop, and Chimney Stack, these being extensions at Lount Works), one Technical School Workshop, three Sculleries, nine additions to existing Dwelling-Houses, fourteen Piggeries, and nine miscellaneous Buildings.

Trades, &c.

With the exception of the extension of the Lount Pot Works, no additional Works or new Trades have been commenced in your district.

Existing Properties.

Improvements to old properties continue slowly, and works do not progress so rapidly as I should like to see them.

Forty-three existing Houses have been completely re-drained, properly trapped, ventilated, &c.

Public Works, &c.

With the exception of a short length of Sewer and two Man-Holes, in the village of Chilcote, no other Works of this nature have been carried out.

A public Water Supply from the mains of the Coalville Urban District Council, has been provided for New Swannington, but the property owners do not seem to be over anxious to take the supply, only four Houses have as yet been connected to the Mains.

Additional Land has been obtained for the purpose of irrigation at the New Swannington Works, and the Land properly fenced in.

Isolation Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital at Swannington was closed in November for the purpose of Disinfection, Cleansing, &c.

Tenders for alterations to the Scullery and Out-Buildings, and for Colouring, Painting, &c., the Hospital throughout were obtained, and the work was ultimately carried out.

The Hospital Committee paid a visit of inspection and expressed their approval of the condition of the premises, previous to any new cases being admitted.

Slaughter-houses.

The Slaughter-houses in your district have received periodical inspection, and improvements have in several cases been made, but generally the Slaughter-houses are of a poor type, and in many cases too closely surrounded with other properties to afford that ventilation which is essential to a proper Slaughter-house, and a much better type of Building is very necessary, and I would here call your attention to the desirability of adopting the Public Health Amendment Act, of 1890, and also that of 1907; copies of the latter were supplied to each Member, with a view to adopting this Act, but the question seems to have been overlooked.

Bakehouses.

Bakehouses have been periodically visited, and generally, are found fairly well kept, and we have no underground Bakehouses.

Public Health Matters.

During the year the following matters have received attention under the various Public Health Acts, Housing and Town Planning Act, &c., and copies of this report have already been forwarded to the Local Government Board, and the County Council through your Medical Officer of Health.

Total inspections for all purposes	2135
Notices served	31
Premises, houses, &c., inspected	1640
Nuisances abated ditto	907
Pools, ditches, watercourses, &c., inspected	12
Nuisances abated ditto	12
Animals improperly kept	25
Nuisances abated ditto	25
Privies, new, provided	5
,, existing repaired	71
,, converted to pails	4

Privies converted to W.C.'s	2
Pail or earthclosets, new, provided	1
,, ,, converted to W.C.'s	—
Water closets, new, provided	4
,, ,, converted from dry receptacles ...	—
,, ,, supplied with water, repaired, &c. ...	—
Ashpits, new, provided	9
,, converted to ashbins	—
Ashbins, new, provided	—
Cesspools, No. rendered impervious, repaired, cleaned, &c.	—
,, ,, abolished and drains connected to sewer ...	—
Drains, traps, &c., No. inspected...	316
,, ,, ,, nuisances abated	119
Smoke nuisances	—
Offensive Accumulations, No. inspected	7
,, ,, nuisances abated	7
Insanitary houses (Public Health Act, 1875)—	
No. inspected	No separate record kept
,, cleansed, limewashed, &c.	9
,, condemned	—
,, closed	—
Overcrowding, No. of houses inspected	17
,, nuisances abated	3
Other insanitary conditions not included in above—	
No. inspected	31
Nuisances abated	31
Common lodging houses	2
Offensive trades	—
Slaughter-houses—	
No. in district	18
,, licensed (Urban)	3
,, registered	—
,, of inspections of premises	42
,, of contraventions of Bye Laws	6
Food, Diseased, Unsound, &c.—	
No. of Seizures	—
No. of Summonses issued	—
No. of Convictions obtained	—
No. of parcels of food surrendered	—
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection—	
No. of houses affected	77
,, ,, inspected	77
Total number of inspections made in this connection ...	170
No. of house rooms disinfected (most houses throughout, but in a few cases, only the patients room) ...	
,, Schools disinfected	—
,, Lots of clothing disinfected	—
,, ,, ,, destroyed	—
Is there a steam disinfector available ?	No

Water Supply—

No. of samples taken for analysis	—
,, ,, condemned	—
,, Wells closed	4
,, ,, cleansed, repaired, &c.	5
,, Instances where public supply was substituted for wells	—
,, Cisterns cleansed, &c.	7
,, Cistern wastes disconnected from drains (R.W.C.'s)	9

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders 1885—1889.

Have regulations been adopted? Yes; not of much value.

Has a Veterinary Inspector been appointed?	Yes
No. of dairymen, &c. (milk sellers) in the district ...	176
,, these registered (Order of 1855, Sec. (6) (1) (2) ...	176
,, Inspections made	420
,, Dairymen, &c. (butter and cheese makers) in the District (Order 1885-6, (5) (6)—No separate list kept	
No. ditto on Register	See above figures.
,, of Inspections made	See above figures.
,, ,, ,, during milking time ...	No separate list kept
,, ,, Contraventions of regulations found ...	A large proportion still want totally modernising.
,, ,, Premises found to require cleaning ...	A large proportion still want totally modernising.
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, structural ... or sanitary improvements ... (including want of impervious ... floors of yards, cowsheds, &c.) ...	A large proportion still want totally modernising.
,, ,, Premises where improvements have been carried out ...	17
,, ,, ,, deriving water supply from wells, very general, but we have seven farms supplied by rams, driving water from springs.	
,, ,, Samples of such water taken for analysis	—
Results of these Analyses—	
(*a*) Good	—
(*b*) Passable	—
(*c*) Condemned	—
Legal Proceedings—	
No. of summonses issued under these orders and regulations	—
No. of Convictions obtained	—

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910.

No. of dwelling houses inspected	30
Total No. of Inspections made	75
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were found ...	30
,, ,, ,, ,, which, after the making of closing orders, were put into a fit state for habitation Sec. 17 (6) ...	1
Number of dwelling houses demolished—	
(*a*) By voluntary action of owners	—
(*b*) As a result of closing orders Sec. 18 (2) ...	—

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Public Health, Etc.

Workshops.	No. on Register (including Bakehouses)	91
,,	No. of Nuisances abated ...	—
Bakehouses.	No. on Register	10
,,	No. of Nuisances abated ...	—
Homework.	No. of Outworkers	55
,,	No. of Infected Houses ...	2
Legal Proceedings.	No. of Summonses issued ...	—
,,	No. of convictions obtained ...	—

General Information.

What arrangements are in operation for the disinfection of:—

(a) Rooms--Fumigation by Irial Sulphur Candles
(b) Bedding—Nil
(c) Articles of clothing—Nil

After Fumigation is it the general practice to thoroughly cleanse and strip the wall paper? } not unless the premises are very dirty.

Have Building Bye-laws been adopted for the whole district—if not, for what (Rural) Parishes? } No.

Bye-laws adopted for the Parishes of Heather, Blackfordby, Thringstone, Coleorton, Swannington, Measham, Oakthorpe, and Donisthorpe, and Ravenstone—with—Snilstone.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Orders.

The Cowkeepers and Milksellers in your district have evidently begun to realise that the regulations in respect of these matters are intended to be complied with, and it is very satisfactory to find that in many cases, the Cowkeepers now freely admits that the regular cleansing and limewashing, improved paving, drainage, &c. of the buildings are a material benefit, both to themselves and their Dairy Cattle.

The periodical limewashing of the buildings is now carried out more punctual and regular than formerly, and with better all-round results.

Much labour is still involved where changes of tenancy occurs, new comers being careless and apparently fail to realise that "Registration" is necessary where Milk-selling is carried on.

Steady improvement is being carried on in respect to Farm Buildings, but there are yet a great many still to be put into a proper sanitary condition.

During the year, 560 letters and notices were received and dealt with, and 690 letters and notices were sent out from the office.

(*Signed*) SAMUEL TURNER.